



COFF

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Letters Patent of:

Berger et al.

Patent No.: **6,905,554 B2**

Issued: **June 14, 2005**

For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CLEANING A VEHICLE**

) Application No.: **10/615,594**

)

) Examiner: **S. Chaudhry**

)

) Art Unit: **1746**

Certificate

AUG 02 2005

of Correction

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**ATTENTION: Certificate
of Correction Branch**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 ATTENTION: Certificate of Correction Branch on July 26, 2005

By: Carol Prentice
CAROL PRENTICE

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.322

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Certificate of Correction for U.S. Patent No. 6,905,554 which issued June 14, 2005. Upon reviewing the patent, the patentees noted errors were made by the Patent and Trademark Office in printing the patent. Specifically, there are minor typographical errors in claims 1, 7 and 18.

A Certificate of Correction is enclosed, and reads as follows:

(1) In claim 1:

Column 12, line 40:
Delete the comma "," after the word "aligned".

(1) In claim 7:

Column 13, line 14:
Delete the comma "," after the word "aligned".

AUG 03 2005

(1) In claim 18:

Column 14, line 24:

After the word "wherein" delete the semicolon ";" and
replace it with a colon -- : --.

A copy of the last Amendment dated November 15, 2004 is
enclosed evidencing the requested corrections in claims 1, 7 and
18.

Since the errors for which a Certificate of Correction are
sought were the result of Patent and Trademark Office mistakes, no
fee is due (35 U.S.C. §254). The issuance of the enclosed
Certificate of Correction is therefore respectfully requested.

Attached hereto, in duplicate, is Form PTO-1050, with at
least one copy being suitable for printing.

Please send the Certificate to Patentees' undersigned
representative.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry R. Lipsitz
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 28,637
Lipsitz & McAllister, LLC
755 Main Street, Bldg. 8
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 459-0200

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HOE-765
Date: July 26, 2005

AUG 03 2005



P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Berger, et al.) Examiner: S. Chaudhry
Serial No.: 10/615,594) Art Unit: 1746
Filed: July 7, 2003)

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CLEANING A VEHICLE

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: November 15, 2004.

Signature: Carol Prentice
Carol Prentice

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 23, 2004. Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing Of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

COPY

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

✓ 1. (Currently amended) Method for cleaning a vehicle with a vehicle washing facility, comprising:

providing a at least one first cleaning tool vertically aligned with and adapted to be movable past the vehicle to be cleaned in a longitudinal and in a transverse direction thereof; and
providing a at least one second cleaning tool horizontally aligned, with and adapted to be movable in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and adjustable in a vertical direction in accordance with the contour of the vehicle; wherein and

checking a checking device checks whether the length of the vehicle exceeds a predetermined maximum value using a checking device; and

wherein:

at least one of the rear of the vehicle and/or the front of the vehicle are cleaned only with one of the first or only with the second cleaning tool when the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value; and

the rear and front of the vehicle are cleaned with both the first and second cleaning tools when the length of the vehicle is within the maximum value.

✓ 2. (Original) Method as defined in claim 1, wherein prior to activating the first and second cleaning tools it is first checked whether the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.

3. (Currently amended) Method as defined in claim 2, wherein prior to activating the first and second cleaning tools the vehicle is moved beyond a predetermined drive-in position forwards

as far as a stop position and its front area is subsequently cleaned only with the second cleaning tool ~~insofar as~~ when the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.

- ✓ 4. (Currently amended) Method as defined in claim 1, wherein when at least one of the a first and/or second cleaning tool is already activated, ~~it is checked~~ the checking device checks whether the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
- ✓ 5. (Currently amended) Method as defined in claim 1, wherein the rear of the vehicle is cleaned only with the first cleaning tool ~~insofar as~~ when the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value.
- ✓ 6. (Currently amended) Method as defined in claim 1, wherein the checking device comprises ~~it is checked by means of~~ at least one sensor operating without contact with the vehicle ~~whether the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value~~.
- ✓ 7. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility for cleaning a vehicle, for carrying out the method as defined in claim 1 comprising:
 - a at least one first cleaning tool vertically aligned with and movable past the vehicle to be cleaned in a longitudinal and in a transverse direction thereof;
 - a and comprising at least one second cleaning tool horizontally aligned, with and movable in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and adjustable in a vertical direction in accordance with the contour of the vehicle; ~~wherein the vehicle washing facility comprises and~~
 - a checking device for checking whether the length of the vehicle exceeds a predetermined maximum value; and

wherein:

only one of the at least one first cleaning tool or only the at least one second cleaning tool is adapted to be activated for cleaning at least one of the front of the vehicle and/or the rear of the vehicle when the length of the vehicle exceeds the maximum value; and

both the first and second cleaning tools are adapted to be activated for cleaning the front and rear of the vehicle when the length of the vehicle is within the maximum value.

- ✓ 8. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the checking device comprises a sensor unit positioned at a predetermined distance in relation to a front end of the vehicle washing facility with respect to a the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned.
- ✓ 9. (Original) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 8, wherein the sensor unit is designed as a light barrier.
- ✓ 10. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein ~~the vehicle washing facility comprises~~ two first cleaning tools are provided, each positionable on one side of the vehicle to be cleaned.
- ✓ 11. (Original) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 10, wherein the two first cleaning tools are designed as wash brushes each rotatable about a vertical axis of rotation.
- ✓ 12. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the a second cleaning tool is designed as a wash brush rotatable about a horizontal axis of rotation.
- ✓ 13. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the first cleaning tools tool comprises at least one vertically aligned nozzle arrangement adapted to be acted upon with for spraying cleaning liquid for cleaning the vehicle.
- ✓ 14. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 13, wherein: the nozzle arrangement comprises at least two groups of nozzles, wherein a first group of nozzles faces the vehicle to be cleaned during a transverse movement of the nozzle arrangement, and

a second group of nozzles faces the vehicle to be cleaned during a longitudinal movement of the nozzle arrangement.

✓ 15. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 13, wherein:

at least one nozzle arrangement comprises three groups of nozzles, wherein

a first group of nozzles faces the vehicle during a transverse movement in front of the vehicle to be cleaned,

a second group of nozzles faces the vehicle during a longitudinal movement along a longitudinal side of the vehicle, and

a third group of nozzles faces the vehicle during a transverse movement behind the vehicle to be cleaned.

✓ 16. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein:

a the second cleaning tool is designed as a horizontally aligned nozzle arrangement ~~adapted to be acted upon with~~ for spraying cleaning liquid and comprising first and second groups of nozzles, wherein and

with respect to the a drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned the first group of nozzles is directed at the vehicle with a directional component pointing rearwards at an angle and the second group of nozzles with a directional component pointing forwards at an angle.

✓ 17. (Original) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein control sensors are associated with the first and second cleaning tools for controlling the cleaning tools during their movement along the vehicle.

18. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 7, wherein:

with respect to a the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned the first and second cleaning tools are held on a transport device displaceable along a guideway so as to be offset relative to one another and form front and rear cleaning tools, wherein

an end sensor is arranged between the front and rear cleaning tools for detecting at least one of the front and/or rear end of the vehicle.

- ✓ 19. (Original) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 18, wherein the end sensor comprises a light barrier aligned at an angle to the horizontal.
- ✓ 20. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 18, ~~wherein the vehicle washing facility comprises further comprising at least one of~~ a front and/or a rear end switch making a signal available as soon as the transport device has reached at least one of the front and/or rear end of the guideway with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned.
- ✓ 21. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 20, wherein:
the checking device comprises a control unit coupled to the end switch, the end sensor, and as well as to the control sensor of at least one of the front and/or rear cleaning tool and for controlling at least one of the front and rear cleaning tools for cleaning at least one of the front of the vehicle and/or the rear of the vehicle.
- ✓ 22. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 21, wherein the front cleaning tool with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned is adapted to be deactivated by means of the control unit ~~insofar as not only when~~ the rear end switch and but also the control sensor of the front cleaning tool are activated and the end sensor indicates the rear of the vehicle has been passed.
- ✓ 23. (Currently amended) Vehicle washing facility as defined in claim 21, wherein the rear cleaning tool with respect to the drive-in direction of the vehicle to be cleaned is adapted to be deactivated by means of the control unit ~~insofar as not only when~~ the front end switch but also and the control sensor of the rear cleaning tool are activated and the end sensor indicates the front of the vehicle has been passed.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 23, 2004. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23 are amended. Claims 1-23 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-23 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to recite method steps. The claims are amended herein to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as a claimed recitation of use, without setting forth any process steps, is an improper definition of a process, and therefore an improper process claim. The claims are amended herein to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to specify steps of the method, in order to overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 1 is also amended to specify that, when the length of the vehicle does not exceed the predetermined value, both first and second cleaning tools are used to clean the front and rear ends of the vehicle (see, e.g., Applicants' specification, page 3, first full paragraph).

Claim 7 is amended into independent form and now sets forth an apparatus that conforms to the method of claim 1.

Claims 3-6, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-23 are amended to conform to the amendments made to claims 1 and 7, and to place the claims into better condition for allowance.

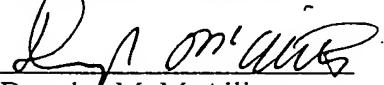
Applicants submit that claims 1-23, which the Examiner has indicated contain allowable subject matter, are now in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas M. McAllister
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 37,886
Law Office of Barry R. Lipsitz
755 Main Street
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 459-0200

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HOE-765
Date: November 15, 2004

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,905,554 *B2*

Page 1 of 1

APPLICATION NO.: 10/615,594

ISSUE DATE : June 14, 2005

INVENTOR(S) : Berger et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 12, line 40:

Delete the "," after the word "aligned".

Column 13, line 14:

Delete the "," after the word "aligned".

Column 14, line 24

After the word "wherein" delete the ";" and replace it with -- : --.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Lipsitz & McAllister, LLC
755 Main St., Building 8
Monroe, CT 06468

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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Page 1 of 1

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